

P20596.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : MATSUSHITA et al.

Group Art Unit: 37133700

Appl No : 09/848,301

Examiner:

Filed : May 4, 2001

: FLEXIBLE TUBE FOR AN ENDOSCOPE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent No. 4,753,222 to MORISHITA, issued on June 28, 1988;

U.S. Patent No. 5,448,988 to WATANABE, issued on September 12, 1995;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 5-50287, published on July 28, 1993, along with an English language translation of the same. Applicants note that this document is discussed on page 2 of the specification of the instant application;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 6-98115, published on December 7, 1994, along with an English language translation of the same; and

Japanese Patent No. 2641789, issued on May 2, 1997, along with an English language translation of the same. Applicants note that this document is discussed on page 3 of the specification of the instant application.

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Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents and enclosed translations. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent application:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/734,928, in the name of HAYAKAWA et al., entitled "Flexible Tube for an Endoscope and Method of Producing the Flexible Tube", filed on December 13, 2000.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-mentioned application is attached hereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
MATSUSHITA et al.

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August 3, 2001
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